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# Fisheries Licensing for the Future Workshop

Paul Anderson

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**MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**Directions:**

All recipients of MaineCF grants **are required** to complete this progress report form. This form may be completed in two ways: 1) open it in Microsoft Word and click on the shaded areas to type in your answers (preferred) or 2) simply print it and type or write in your answers.

In either case, please limit your answers to a total of 2 pages and use a font size of at least 11 points.

**GRANTEE ORGANIZATION:** University of Maine: Maine Sea Grant  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Fisheries Licensing for the Future Workshop  
**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Paul Anderson  
**PHONE:** 207-581-1435 **E-MAIL:** panderson@maine.edu  
**DATE:** 25 August 2014 **GRANT AMOUNT:** \$30,000

1. At this time, the proposed project is (check one):

☒ Complete      ☐ In progress. Estimated completion (mm/yr):      ☐ Not yet begun

If the project has not been started yet, please explain why and give an estimate of the start and completion dates.

*Estimate* how many people have participated in or have been served by this project. 240 have participated and over 8000 state commercial fishery license holders stand to be impacted

a. Is this level of participation (check one)

☐ Fewer than expected      ☒ About what was expected      ☐ More than expected

b. Briefly explain what factors may have impacted the level of participation (positively or negatively)

The number of people participating was to be expected. In the last phase, however the level (depth) of participation, or engagement with the subject of Maine's commercial fisheries licensing system has been complicated by the level of understanding of the working group participants. There is substantial knowledge among staff of the Department of Marine Resources and the State Legislators on the Marine Resources Committee, but many of the political leaders in marine and fisheries policy have had more focus on and a greater understanding of federal, rather than state, issues. This focus reflects the bias of large funding entities.

2. Describe one of the most important project results or outcomes that you identified in your original grant application.

We have 1) hosted the Licensing Workshop and 2) drafted a white paper report from that meeting as stated in the original proposal. Last year we asked for a no cost extension identifying additional outcomes given the political climate and need for organizing discussions among influential policymakers. We have convened a Working Group of these policymakers twice in the past 6 months and have still determined that while we have moved the licensing conversation to the fore, among these groups, licensing as an issue has not yet matured enough to support the release of a Licensing white paper.

a. Check the number that best reflects the progress made toward this result.

☐ 1      ☐ 2      ☒ 3      ☐ 4      ☐ 5  
Very little or no      Some progress      Significant      Result      Exceeded  
progress           progress      Achieved      expected result

b. Briefly explain your answer.

Following up on the answer to number 2, Upon drafting the licensing workshop white paper, we met with the Department of Marine Resources leadership and several marine stakeholders to fine-tune the presentation of the licensing problem in the state's fisheries. In these discussions, it became clear there were several aspects of licensing that resonated with each stakeholder, thus we learned there was a great need for continued, reflexive dialogue and that a written brief would not adequately carry the message as each of the stakeholders had a different place from which they were entering the licensing conversation. To include, or address each of these positions, would make the draft even more cumbersome than it is in its draft form.

Instead, we embarked on individualized communications to invite interested marine policymakers and stakeholders to form a Licensing Working Group. Initial conversations resulted in a broad curiosity about licensing, climate change adaptation, and community resilience. We presented on the learning from the 2012 Workshop and the 2011-12 fishermen focus groups in the first convening of the Working Group regarding community need for a flexible and fair licensing system to support fishing community adaptation and resilience. (see Licensing Principles.) The link(s) between these concepts was not clear among Working Group participants- largely, we discovered, because most participants were only familiar with the challenges facing the state lobster fishery access and the loss of federal groundfish permits. A complete understanding of the fisheries licensing challenges in Maine was necessary to move forward with discussions. We convened a subsequent meeting of the Working Group where the Department of Marine Resources presented on the licensing challenges today and into the future. While we have certainly made progress in moving the discussion and current state of knowledge regarding state fisheries access, we are in an election year and are looking into making the Working Group more formal, to draw attention and priority, to fisheries licensing as a tool to build community and fisheries resilience in a changing climate.

c. Please describe any factors (positive or negative) that impacted your progress toward this result?

In the latter stage of the project, after our fishermen's meetings and the workshop, we overestimated the awareness and familiarity with state fisheries issues among the prominent marine and fisheries policy stakeholders in Maine. Much of the early convening of the licensing working group and organizing conversations have been basic introductions to the current state of affairs in Maine's state fisheries other than lobster.

3. Please share one success story related to your project.

The Department of Marine Resources prepared a status of state fisheries licensing issues primer in the most recent convening of the working group. Because it was presented by DMR, this short presentation advanced conversations greatly and allowed a much deeper understanding of the needs of the state in resolving this problem.

4. If you could do this project again, what would be different?

We might have initiated the effort with an interview of Maine's several marine and fisheries policy stakeholders regarding their perception of state fisheries licensing - not just focus groups with fishermen.

5. Please describe briefly and in general terms the challenges and the benefits you have experienced as a result of trying to use a partnership or collaboration to plan, implement, or evaluate this project.

Partnering has proven invaluable once again! Planning and communication are best examples of how this collaboration has been a great benefit. Having multiple perceptions available when convening stakeholders and evaluating project impacts has also been a great plus in designing and tailoring outreach conversations.

6. Please provide feedback about your experience with Maine Community Foundation. (Check the appropriate box)

Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Agree
strongly			strongly

- |   |                            |                            |                            |                                       |                              |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. The effort to apply and report for this grant was worth the support received | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 |                              |
| b. The MaineCF staff was accessible.  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| c. The MaineCF staff was helpful.   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Optional:

Please use this space to share any other suggestions, ideas or feedback that you have for the Maine Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your flexibility and willingness to work with us in granting a no-cost extension last year. It was very helpful in developing our ideas and provided the right context and opportunity to learn how to proceed with this project.

Thank you!

Please e-mail this form to [grants@mainecf.org](mailto:grants@mainecf.org) or mail to:

Maine Community Foundation

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